

# *The Ecclesiastical Parish of Great Ayton with Easby*

Guisborough Road, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough TS9 6AA

Charity No. 1131499

[www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk](http://www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk)



## **Annual Report 2011**



**Diocese of  
YORK**



**THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**

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## PCC as at February 2012

**Ex Officio:** Clergy - Revd Paul Peverell, Revd Geoff Jaques & Revd Jon Dean:  
Readers - Margaret Lewis & Peter Titchmarsh: Churchwardens (& Deanery Synod) - Rosemary Wheway & Eric Boyce.

**Deanery Synod Reps:** Ken Taylor, Nick Land, Robin Harmar,

**PCC Members:** Ken Bellamy, Julie Bourke, Jean Cumbor, Julie Leng, Alison Lambert, Mike Foden, Martin Simmons, Gordon Wood, Craig Cartwright, David Land. & Enid Sedgwick.



## A Word from the Vicar

Another year has gone by as we receive the annual report for 2011. The bitterly cold winter that started the year had a significant effect on patterns of attendance. Together with the large number of regular worshippers who died during 2011 this has brought down our average Sunday attendance to 130.

Thankfully a milder end to the year has seen numbers recover and Christmas attendances were back up again. A very late Easter caused communicant numbers to fall by 60 to 176 as people took advantage of the chance of a holiday.

We have also seen growth in the Come and Praise Service as some Little Fishes have swum along to join in.

During the year we had 27 baptisms at Great Ayton, 6 weddings and 51 funerals. The decline in Church weddings has caused concern in the Church of England in general. Last year York Diocese joined in with the Church of England Wedding Project, seeking to promote Church weddings more and to improve our service. We already have good practice, but this has enabled us to tighten up even more and the effect is already being seen with an increase in weddings for 2012.

We need to make sure that we constantly give of our best at all services and occasions as people judge the Church by what they see. On the whole I believe we do with our baptisms, weddings and funerals and I would like to thank the teams involved in all of these services for helping maintain a high standard of welcome and service.

There is so much going on in our Church, and you can see more in this report. Please help us continue our work and witness by being involved yourself, and maybe consider serving on the Church Council. To find out more and show your support, come along to our Annual Church Meeting on **Wednesday 20th March in the Parochial Hall at 7.30pm.**

**Paul Peverell, Vicar**

The Vicarage, Low Green, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough, TS9 6NN

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# The Parish of Great Ayton with Easby

## Minutes of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011

Present (35)

Canon Paul Peverell (Vicar/Chairman) Mike Acornley, Ken Bellamy, Julie Bourke, Eric Boyce, Mary Boyce, Steve Bradley, David Brook, Evelyn Brook, Elaine Brown, Jean Cumbor, Jon Dean, Helen Dickinson, Robin Harmar, David Henley, Gwen Henley, Margaret Herriman, Maureen Hudson, Geoff Jaques, Alison Lambert, Nick Land, Julie Leng, Margaret Lewis, Audrey Prunty, Peter Prunty, David Rowland, Enid Sedgewick, Martin Simmons, Ken Taylor, Pauline Titchmarsh, Lynda Walker, Rosemary Wheway, Ann Whittaker, Dorothy Wood, Gordon Wood

Apologies (23) were received from: Jean Crombie, Jo Dean, John Dickinson, Doris Huddleston, John Huddleston, Ray Huddleston, Angela Jaques, Dulcie Jones, Ben Lambert, Robert Lappin, David Land, Claire Lowes, Betty Manton, Jean Mitchell, Ron Mitchell, Eugene Pannett, Andrew Prunty, Malcolm Race, Chris Thompson, Peter Titchmarsh, Jonathan Winterschladen, Vivienne Winterschladen, Zuilmah Winterschladen,

## Meeting of Parishioners

The Vicar welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
A reading and prayers were said.

### Election of Churchwardens

- Rosemary Wheway had been proposed by Ray Huddleston and seconded by Doris Huddleston.
- Eric Boyce had been proposed by Gordon Wood and seconded by Dorothy Wood.
- There were no further nominations and they were duly re-elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.
- The Vicar said he is delighted that Rosemary and Eric are once again Churchwardens for the coming year. He very much appreciates all that they do – and especially for Eric turning out for the meeting on his birthday! They do a tremendous job. Thank you.



## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Those present, who are on electoral roll, were invited to stay for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

### Apologies for Absence

- A list of the names of people giving apologies was read out.

### Minutes of Meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010

- The minutes of last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting had been circulated with the Annual Report.
- The minutes were proposed by David Brook and seconded by Alison Lambert – all agreed.



### Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

### Electoral Roll Report

- Alison Lambert advised that The Electoral Roll at the Annual Parochial Meeting in 2010 stood at 331. Following the revision of the roll for 2011, which closed on 6<sup>th</sup> March, the number appearing on the Roll is now 330, a net decrease of 1 for the year. This net decrease is due to 7 new applications being accepted and 8 names being removed from the list. There are still a significant number of church members who are not on the Roll.
- Applications for enrolment can be accepted after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting and throughout the year not just at the Annual Revision.
- The Vicar explained that the Church's Parish Share is not calculated based on the number on the electoral roll but that it is important to be included on the electoral roll in order to be able to calculate staffing.

### Presentation of the Annual Report for 2010

- The Annual Report for 2010 has been published and distributed in several formats – in full colour, with photographs, distributed on the Internet and on the Church Website, in a paper edition which is available in church and also the legal, more formalised Annual Report which is an abbreviated version – it shows the tremendous amount of work carried out from our Church community by the number of different organisations which enrich the life of the village.

Formal adoption of the report was agreed by all present.

## **Financial Report & Presentation of the Audited Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010**

- Ken Taylor wished to record thanks to Helen Dickinson, Jean Goat, Sheila Levett and John Huddlestone for all their help with the financial aspects of the church as well as everyone who does the weekly count.
- Ken Taylor presented the audited accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 – full details of the income and expenditure can be found in the Annual Report. The balance at the year end is £36,468.
- The year's big project, The Chancel Ceiling, was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Insurance Claim and Donations. There was a surplus of £771, even after the funding of presentation aids and a leaflet print – so we have made a profit on the project.
- The recipients of our charitable giving have been Haiti, Pakistan Flood Relief, Bwindi, Romanian Hospice, Tees Valley Youth for Christ, Yorkshire Cancer Research, Children in Distress and 35 other groups making a grand total of £30,058 donated.
- Ken Taylor presented the budget for 2011 and advised that planned income is £101,500 with planned expenditure of £101,500.
- He outlined that church costs approximately £2,000 per week to run and it is largely funded by Planned Givers. There are currently 114 monthly Standing Orders, 85 weekly FWO envelopes and 10 regular contributors. Thanks were given to these 209 planned givers who provide a steady guaranteed income to the church. Anyone wishing to start a planned giving scheme or to leave a legacy in their will would be very welcome and appreciated to help with the ongoing costs of the church.
- Nick Land proposed accepting the accounts and was seconded by Eric Boyce. All were in favour.
- The Vicar thanked Ken Taylor for all his work on the accounts. Accounts have become more and more complicated and demanding over the years and Ken carries it out extremely competently and calmly, which is very much appreciated.

### **The Vicar's Comments**

- The Vicar spoke about some of the activities that had been held during the last year. It has been a busy year:
- 39 baptisms including a number of adults: 7 weddings; 27 funerals in church and 12 at the crematorium.
- We have 17 Parish Visitors and are seeing more people.
- The average attendance at Sunday Services is 141 adults and 26 children
- The attendance on Easter was 267 with 236 communicants.
- The attendance at Christmas (including the Crib Service and Midnight Mass) was 545 including 213 communicants.



- A big thank you was said to all the officers of the PCC.
- The Vicar performed as Fagin in 'Oliver' with the Bradley School of Dance in the Church hall in December.
- The Spire magazine is delivered to 360 people by email as well as 300 paper copies and downloads are available from both the Church Website and the Evening Gazette, which keeps us in touch with the wider community. This month it will be in colour!
- A new church website was launched in November and has had visitors from all over the world.
- The students continue to receive Gift Boxes full of Goodies – organised by Nick and Helen Land.
- Special services continue to be organised – Crib Service, Love in a Box, Christingle. The biggest service of the year is Marwood and Roseberry Schools' Carol Service.
- The Alternative Service is going from strength to strength.
- We have had non Eucharistic Parade Services at 9.15am which were well received.
- Thanks were expressed to all who lead groups and to those who share their journey of faith through Spire or Get Up with God.
- Youth Work continues to be a main focus of the church – we are a major supporter of the Stokesley School Youth Project.
- We have a number of people who work with The Sunday School, The Firm, the Younger Firm, The Bell Ringers, The Servers.
- Thanks were given by the Vicar to Mrs Karen Peverell who has worked so long and hard to develop such a successful Sunday School and who will shortly take a step back in her role to allow others to come forward to lead Sunday School.
- The Youth Choir has not continued.
- Thanks were given to Margaret Herriman for the gift of a new harmonium for All Saints Church in memory of her husband Dennis.
- Thanks were given to Roger Arkell and John Huddlestone for all the work they do with All Saints Church and to all those who maintain, clean and decorate all our churches.
- Thanks were given to Jennifer and all those who maintain the church hall.
- There has been a successful Wydale weekend and many other events.



The Vicar said **A VERY BIG THANK YOU** to all those who work so hard within the church community.

### **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives – 5 vacancies**

- There are five vacancies.
- Five nominations received – Rosemary Wheway, Eric Boyce, Robin Harmar, Nick Land, Ken Taylor.
- There were no further nominations and the aforementioned were duly elected to represent church on the Deanery Synod.

### **Election of members to the Church Council – 4 vacancies**

- There are four vacancies.
- Three nominations received – Julie Bourke, Julie Leng and David Land.
- There were no further nominations and the aforementioned were duly elected to the Church Council.
- There remains one vacancy.

### **Appointment of Sidesmen/Sideswomen**

- The list of Sidesmen and Sideswomen remain the same as last year and Malcolm Race has agreed to be a reserve.

### **Appointment of Independent Examiners**

- Ken Taylor proposed Stanley Bye be appointed as our Independent Examiners.
- This was seconded by Robin Harmar and all agreed.

### **Any questions about Church Matters**

#### **Recommendations or resolutions for consideration by the PCC.**

- David Brook commented that the work of the Youth for Christ Workers in Stokesley School is invaluable and has made a significant difference to the profile of the church with the pupils. He asked that we continue to support Youth for Christ in any way we can.
- Geoff Jaques advised that York City Gospel choir are raising funds for Youth for Christ and recommended that tickets be bought.

On behalf of all present, Pauline Titchmarsh thanked The Vicar for all that he does – it is much appreciated.

Signed ..... Date .....

The meeting adjourned and we were joined by members of the Great Ayton Archaeological Society to hear a talk on the restoration of the Chancel Ceiling given by Francis Downing.

# Churchwardens' Report 2011



The congregation can be reassured that the Church Silver and other items of value continue to be safe and records continue to be updated and safe. Photographic evidence has also been updated.

The past year has been one of many contrasts when we have sadly lost several valued members of the congregation but we have also welcomed new members and been encouraged when these new friends have already begun to contribute to the life of the Church.

The year has been one of maintenance and consolidation with no major repairs. The bells and organ have been serviced and some of the high level lights have been replaced. We have continued to maintain our property with some remedial painting, clearing gutters etc. We are grateful to the members of the congregation who regularly help with clearing leaves and keeping the grounds tidy. We also thank the many people involved in keeping our Churches looking so beautiful throughout the year. We recognise that this involves a tremendous amount of work and dedication by our volunteers.

There is a new notice board facing Guisborough Road which was erected in the summer.

On 17<sup>th</sup> July we were privileged to welcome the Archbishop of York to our Confirmation service. There were 18 candidates of whom 11 were from Christ Church.



Mission continues to be an important area for the PCC with charity donations made locally, nationally and internationally. Our Christmas collections were for AIDS charities in False Bay, South Africa contributing to an initiative from the Bishop of Whitby.

We thank you for your support during the last year and encourage you to become involved in the future work of Christ Church.

**Eric Boyce and Rosemary Wheway Churchwardens**

## PCC Secretary's Report 2011

In 2011 the PCC met on 5 occasions plus the Annual Church Meeting in March. The Standing Committee met on 5 occasions. These meetings were well attended and the effective running of our church has been discussed.

All places on the Deanery Synod were filled this year and there were two vacancies on the PCC – one of which occurred when John Huddleston retired – although 'his shoes are very big to fill' as he contributed so very much to church life. We do hope that someone new will take up the challenge and join the PCC.

Meetings of the All Saints Committee, Ayton Churches Together Committee, Hall Committee, Projects and Fabric Committee and Parish Life and Young People Committee have been held throughout the year to discuss projects relating to both churches and buildings. Reports following these meetings have been given at PCC meetings.

Although there have been no major projects, like the chancel ceiling, to oversee this year, all members of the PCC must be thanked for their endless hard work to ensure the smooth running of our church. There is much work that goes on behind the scenes and our PCC members work with commitment and enthusiasm under the direction of our very persuasive 'task master' – Rev Pev!



I don't know whose responsibility it is to thank Paul for making our church so successful but, on behalf of us all – Thank You Paul for your excellent leadership!

**Julie Bourke** - Secretary

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### Meet the Team

Our Church relies on volunteers to help keep us clean, tidy and welcoming. If you are younger than everyone on this picture, then we need to hear from you. Have you a couple of hours to spare a few times a year?



## Deanery Synod Report

The two items that kept on repeating themselves this last year were concerns about the Parish Share payments and trying to find a replacement for Graham Hassall, the ever faithful secretary who has been trying to retire since last May.

Stokesley Deanery has always had a 100% record of Parish Share payment until recently when Parishes no longer felt able to keep filling the gap left by Hemlington's shortfall. This year several other Parishes have contributed to a shortfall of around £37,000 for various reasons, which show that all Churches are now struggling more financially. Not a surprise in the present financial climate.

On a positive note, we saw the Bishop of Whitby's visitation to Parishes encouraging participation in the Mission Action Plan initiative, started by Archbishop David Hope. Jon Dean also led a session on how to increase attendance numbers, and we have also seen the Deanery Youth Committee reformed and organising and coordinating events.

We also debated the issue of the Ordination of Women to the Episcopate with a motion that wanted to keep legal safeguards for all opposed to the measure. This was defeated at Synod as most members present believed the Code of Practice should be enough and you couldn't have a Bishop without full authority over their Diocese.

Deanery events have also taken place, as with the Lent Course in Stokesley, and a Deanery Day is planned for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July this year.

Synod is still looking for a Secretary!

### Spire

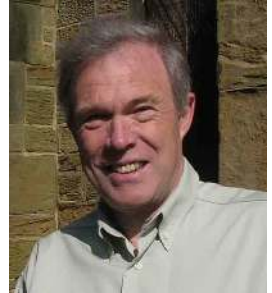
This year saw the launch of the paper edition in full colour. The cover charge had to rise to 50p to cover this, but it has been well received. One reader from out of the village wrote "If there is a better Church Magazine than Spire I have yet to find it!" It is always good to hear the positive reports and thanks to the regular contributors and to Jean Goat and her team of deliverers.



We print 300 paper copies, which I hoped may have gone up with the new format, and there are also 400 pdf copies that go out each month, together with it being available for download on the Church and Evening Gazette websites. If you would like either format, see Jean or the Vicar.

# Financial Report 2011

The year began with the country in the throws of a major financial crisis with no-one quite knowing how it would pan out. What effect would it have on my standard of living? Would I even have a job? What would happen to my pension? Amidst all this uncertainty we at Christ Church, like many other churches, had to work out how we would pay for our Church and maintain our mission giving against a backdrop of an aging congregation. We set a deliberately cautious budget but, in the event, the outturn significantly exceeded our expectations.



Our unrestricted income rose from the budget of £103,500 to £112,990. This was largely due to a significant growth in planned giving. Despite losing members from our planned giving schemes, 15 members either joined up or voluntarily increased their contributions. This, combined with the knock-on effect of increased tax refunds from gift aid, saw our income exceed the budget by over £6,200. Loose collections and donations were also much higher than expected.

Unrestricted expenditure was £2,211 above the budget. Despite increasing by 6.4% compared to last year, our Parish Share was again paid in full. Operating costs were generally in line with the budget. The one exception was maintenance costs- during the year we replaced the external noticeboard, replaced some of the high level lights, serviced the bells and provided new bell-pulls and repaired gutters and roofing damaged in last winter's frozen weather.

The balance sheet this year shows the addition of the Church Hall as an asset. This is in keeping with Diocesan and Charity Commission practice that even though the title to the Hall is held by the Diocese, the Church, as Managing Trustee must show it on its books as an asset. A valuation of £533,000 was agreed with the insurance surveyor.

Regarding our mission giving, we were able to make our traditional payments from Parish Funds to the Tees Valley Youth for Christ project at Stokesley School, Children's Society, Church Mission Society, Church Army, USPG, Yatton House and this year also the Bible Society. The student boxes were again welcomed by our young folk thanks to the efforts of Nick and Helen Land.

During the year we ran three major appeals. At Easter, we raised nearly £3,000 for the East Africa Famine Appeal administered through Christian Aid. The harvest

appeal for the Bwindi Hospital in Uganda raised £1,761 while over Christmas we raised £2,410 for the Bishop of Whitby's appeal for the Diocese of False Bay in South Africa. We were reminded that even in a relatively affluent country like South Africa HIV/AIDS is still a major health issue and our donations went to support the St Francis Mandela Park project (providing day care for Aids orphans) and the children's hospice at Hawston, both in very poor parts of Cape Province.



Collections from weddings and funerals raised over £10,000 for a variety of regional and national charities- the main beneficiary again was Yorkshire Cancer Research. Children in Distress benefited by £2,763 from donations at baptisms and other fundraising events. Throughout the year, a total of £29,371 was distributed to 44 charities or other good causes – another magnificent effort!

Overall, we achieved a surplus of income over expenditure for the year £7,278. Unrestricted reserves rose to £43,746 – The PCC consider

this is a satisfactory position, as it represents around 5 months of unrestricted expenditure

Although 2012 will continue to be a difficult year for many people, we have been able to develop a budget which shows a surplus of £4,000 – this will be re-assessed later in the year as our financial position becomes clearer. A reduction in average attendance and a lower income level last year is reflected in a reduction in our calculated Parish Share of £3,000- this has been partly offset by making a provision of £2,000 to cover the repair and redecoration of damp-affected walls in the Church, particularly above the Memorial Chapel.

In the circumstances, 2011 has been a very successful year, thanks again to the wonderful generosity of our parishioners.

As ever, my sincere thanks go out to the other members of the finance team- Helen Dickinson, Jean Goat and Sheila Levett (along with all the sidespersons) – this year we are pleased to welcome Robin Harmar (again!) and Mike Foden into the fold.

**Ken Taylor**  
Hon Treasurer

## Christ Church Charitable Giving 2010

Charity	Tax refund	Donations	Spec Serv	Fundraising	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals	Gen Funds	Total
Christian Aid (inc E Africa Famine Appeal)	465.18		179.21	2598.65					3243.04
Friends of Bwindi Community Hospital	84.84			1676.18					1761.02
Bishop's Appeal (False Bay, South Africa)	287.27			2623.35					2910.62
Sewing Seeds Ministries			128.9						128.9
USPG				44.38				400	444.38
Church Mission Society								400	400
Church Army				15.89				400	415.89
The Bible Society								400.00	400.00
Tear Fund				43.33					43.33
Childrens Society			358.11				251.42	400.00	1009.53
Children in Distress				1303.25	1459.61				2762.86
Mothers Union Overseas Fund			305.84						305.84
Tees Valley Youth for Christ				1331				2000	3331
British Hearf Foundation						176.59	511.32		511.32
South Cleveland Heart Fund							303.93		482.52
Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity							165.74		165.74
Cancer Research UK							431.57		431.57
Bramble Lodge Residents Fund							101.04		101.04
Yorkshire Cancer Research						132.75	2668.67		3001.42
AAIR Charity						144.71			144.71
Marie Curie Cancer Care							400.24		400.24
Samantha Dixon Brain Tumour Trust							361.92		361.92
Herritt Hospice Homecare							1434.31		1434.31
Butterwick Hospice			94.69						94.69
Great Ayton Health Centre							202.58		202.58
ITU Trust Fund, James Cook Hospital							213.67		213.67
Alzheimers Association							185.87		185.87
Alzheimers Society							111.29		111.29
Help the Aged							86.32		86.32
Teesdale Hospice				105.57					105.57
St Lukes Hospice						144.71			144.71
Parkinson's Disease Society							511.16		511.16
The Stroke Association							570.27		570.27
IA Support						118.07			118.07
Mind							110		110
Yatton House							218.48	400	618.48
Student Boxes								246.59	246.59
Emmaus UK			152.5						152.5
A Rocha UK			148.1						148.1
Stamp Revisited						83.57			83.57
<b>Royal British Legion</b>									
Royal Military Police Benevolent Fund			654.19				266		920.19
Cash for Kids			190.79				266		266
Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust								100	100
<b>Totals</b>	<b>837.29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2212.33</b>	<b>9741.6</b>	<b>1459.61</b>	<b>802.4</b>	<b>9571.8</b>	<b>4746.59</b>	<b>29371.62</b>

# Sunday School Report

After Easter Alison Collins joined me in running Sunday school, Alison is a teacher at Roseberry School. We are alternating Sundays and it seems to be working well.

Sunday school meets each Sunday during the 9.15 service except the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month when it is Family Service at 11am. We have about 30 children on the register with an average attendance of 22.



Activities are available from 9am for early arrivals. We start with a service. The children take turns lighting the altar candles, we change the colour of the cloth as in Church to teach the children about Church colours and seasons. The service continues with our weekly story, prayers, the peace and singing. We finish with a craft

activity linked to the story we have told. The children go into Church for the end of the service and show their crafts and tell the congregation what they have learnt.

During the year we have followed the lectionary with our stories at Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Harvest. We have studied many other bible stories too. On Good Friday we had over 70 children attend the craft workshops. The children produced some lovely crafts and were joined by their families for a short service in Church.

We participated in the special services for Love in a Box and Christingle. At Christmas we had 24 children participating in the Crib Service. As always they performed and sang very well. Dave the Time Traveller came for our party in January and everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon.

We would thank the PCC for their continued financial support which allows us to do interesting crafts and run special events for the children.

**Karen Peverell Alison Collins**

## Alternative Worship

The highlight of 2011 was our Open Air Alternative on Low Green on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in July (see pics). We were joined by NSB who provided brass accompaniment for a number of hymns to complement our guitar led worship songs. We were blessed with excellent weather – and appreciate Archbishop Sentamu ensuring we changed our date by coming to Christ Church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of July when it poured with rain!



The year began with 'Light of the World' and continued in March with a celebration of 200 years of Church Schools when we welcomed the children, staff and parents from Marwood – beginning

at the alternative time of 4 o'clock. March also saw us leading worship at one of the Deanery Lent evenings in Stokesley.

Our annual Christian Aid Alternative in May was followed in September by a celebration of Biodiversity as part of the Diocesan Year of the Environment.

In November we moved into the Parochial Hall for our 25<sup>th</sup> Alternative and several members of our congregation spoke briefly and Gave Thanks to God for Blessings they had received.

Our lively, hands free worship has continued to be enhanced by a variety of artists – actors, dancers, musicians, poets, and singers and we have continued to explore new ways of worship for people of all ages.

**Revd Geoff Jaques**

# Christ Church Choir

2011 has been a busy and productive year for the parish choir. The 9:15am Parish Communion continues to benefit from the choir's presence, and a number of anthems/choral pieces have been sung during the distribution. At Harvest the choir had the opportunity to be one of the first choirs in the local area to perform the anthem "God in such love for us" by Malcolm Archer which was well received. As well as the normal pattern of services, the choir have sung at other services within the parish such as the Harvest Festival at St Oswald's as well as the Carol Services in both St Oswald's and Christ Church. In addition this year the choir sang at the Wedding Fayre at Whinstone View, singing a number of traditional carols along the way.

Choir numbers during 2011 have stayed relatively stable with the addition of Mandy Foden to the alto section. September 2011 saw Lucy Bourke (our youngest Soprano) head off to study at the University of York St John for which we wish her all the best. She and Vicky Brown continue to sing as part of our choir when they are home from University.

Outside of the parish the choir continues to enjoy an active connection with the RSCM and a number of our members have sung at RSCM Festivals at Durham Cathedral and Selby Abbey this year. In March the choir joined forces with that of Yarm Parish Church and sang at the Deanery Lent Services. Mike Nash has represented our local area once more as a member of RSCM Voices North (a group of choristers who are drawn from across the North



of England to sing for Choral Services in our local cathedrals such as Durham, York, and Newcastle) Both Mike and myself will be present for the 2012 season.



December 2011 was a particularly hard time for the choir with the deaths of members of the choir. Firstly there was the sad news that Beth Thompson (daughter of Chris Thompson and a member of the choir here at Christ Church from October 1982-April 1990) had died after a long battle with cancer. Beth was a dedicated member of the choir for a number of years and will be missed by all who knew her. Later on in December came the news of the sudden death of Chris Preston. Chris

was a highly regarded member of the choir. Amongst her many duties she looked after the choir robes, the choir fund and music librarian as well keeping things organised “behind the scenes” (including keep a certain person organised-who shall be nameless). Words really cannot do justice to how much Chris was thought of as a valued member of this choir and she will be sorely missed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Thompson and Margaret Heaton for work in deputising for services for many an occasion this year. My thanks as well go to Alison Lambert for her organisational skills as usual. As a whole I would like to thank the whole choir for their hard work and dedication in 2011 in turning up week by week at both services and choir practices.

**Craig David Cartwright**

Organist and Director of Music

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## Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF)

January 2012 marks ninety years since the Revd Leslie Mannering, Anglican vicar of St Matthew’s Church, Brixton, offered his congregation a monthly leaflet of daily Bible readings with brief comments, along with an opportunity to meet for discussion and prayer. Originally known as ‘the Fellowship of St. Matthew’ this was the start of the ministry of BRF, which now resources the spiritual journey of adults and children via publications, on the web and face-to-face



ministry (lots more info at [www.brf.org.uk](http://www.brf.org.uk)). Today Bible reading notes are still at the heart of BRF’s ministry and here at Christ Church a group of 37 use their publications as an aid to spending time with God each day. Some of the group who use the booklet ‘New Daylight’ also meet together for discussion and prayer. Talking of how we have been helped or challenged by the readings gives greater awareness of God’s presence in our lives. I have spare copies of the notes if you would like to try them. The booklets ‘New Daylight’ and ‘Guidelines’ are both available as an iPhone/iPad app.

**Enid Sedgwick**

## ***Bible Study Group***

The bible study group meets fortnightly to study and discuss God's word and to help one another apply what we learn to our everyday lives. At the moment we are looking at Jesus's life changing conversations with a whole range of different people as recorded in the Gospel of John. Our next set of studies will be to look at the nature of 'Discipleship' through the study of 2 Corinthians.

Despite losing our two youngest members to University for much of the year we have seen an overall increase in both membership and attendance. New members are very welcome to the group and no prior knowledge is expected. You are welcome to just listen as well as to contribute. Psalms tells us that 'God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path' – come and join us as we explore it together.

We normally meet at Poste Chaise Cottage and are grateful to Audrey Collins for her ongoing hospitality and baking!

**Nick Land (778076)**



## **A World Wide Church**

In 2011 Christ Church linked live with different parts of the world for several services.

Craig Sheridan was working in Korea when son Matthew was being Confirmed by Archbishop Sentamu. So Craig didn't miss the occasion, we linked live with him via

Skype - and the Archbishop loved it. Craig was more part of the service than had he been there in person.

At a baptism service, a Godfather joined in from Hong Kong, reading a prayer and signing a virtual cross on his Godchild.

September saw a live link at a Funeral Service to Las Vegas where grandson, Neil Taylor, was able to read the lesson at his Gran's funeral service.

## **Sunday Morning Coffee**

Sunday Morning Coffee is a way of welcoming newcomers and visitors to our congregation as well as a regular social gathering. Our thanks go to the team of ladies who regularly prepare the drinks and biscuits for after the 9.15am Sunday service also David Rowland who does an invaluable job of collecting the milk and opening our coffee cupboard most Sundays. Sadly, one of our longest serving



ladies, Laura Lamb, passed away - she is greatly missed. The photographs show how popular Sunday Morning Coffee is, especially with the Sunday School who enjoy the biscuits (preferably the chocolate ones). We would welcome any lady or gent who would like to join us at any time. Any profit we make goes towards the running of the Church Hall.

**Pauline Titchmarsh and Val Moore**

## **All Saints Church**

A challenging and successful year. It was good that others were prepared to stand in for quite significant absences due to illness in the early part of the year.

Work was carried out on the roof to counter ingress of rainwater on the north nave wall, Additionally coping stones on the wall between the nave and chancel roofs were noticed to be slipping dangerously and were anchored and freshly mortared.

A notable feature of the year was the increase in the number of requests for use of the church for “non –religious purposes” e.g: The Flower Festival for funds for Yatton House. Rehearsals and well attended concerts were also held in the Church.



A special service, attended by the family, was held to recognise the significant contribution made by John Longstaff who served for 48 years as Parish Clerk. He died in 1842 aged 82, and his grave is in the churchyard.

The annual Civic Service to Captain James Cook led by the Vicar, together with the Revd Catherine Hutton and Father Derek Turnham, was held before a full Church with Civic Representatives, from as far afield as Whitby and Hartlepool.

All Saints was also the focal point for readings of the new King James Bible by representatives from all denominations.

The Church received representatives from the Archdeaconry who seemed pleased with their visit.

Finally the Church was full to overflowing for the annual Carol Service by Candlelight

**Roger Arkell** Hon Custodian

## **Christ Church Visitors**

There are now 18 visitors who meet regularly with the clergy and visit 30 elderly or housebound people. We have visited residential homes and several local hospitals as well as people's homes with visitors regularly going to Stokesley, Hemlington, Nunthorpe and Northallerton.

All visitors are asked to be checked by the Criminal Records Bureau under the category of "vulnerable adults". This is overseen by Gail Jukes as an extension of her role as Child Protection Officer.



We meet with the clergy each month and annually discuss and revise our own Guidelines. We continue to receive appropriate training sessions at some of these meetings.

We deliver a card and speak to next of kin close to the first anniversary of a bereavement and have identified suitable prayers and cards to use during visits. In addition, we have an identity card to leave on the first visit which can give a contact phone number and has already reassured relatives of vulnerable people.

With the help of the congregation we hope to continue a system of visiting new arrivals to the village and have taken Welcome Packs with a welcome card, letter from Christ Church, Spire, Stream, Newsheet and map. You can help by filling in a card at the back of Church to advise us of any new neighbours you may have.

We support Paul with the monthly service in Hollygarth and also transport some people who would otherwise be unable to go. Last Christmas we began an initiative to deliver a CD recording of the Christ Church Carol Service to as many as possible of the housebound. It is a very rewarding task and we would welcome anyone to join us so that we can reach more people.

**Rosemary Wheway**

## Flower Guild Report

Once again 2011 saw very few weddings in Christ Church so there was not so much work for the Flower Guild. However Paul tells us that the numbers have increased greatly for this year. We look forward to decorating the church for, at least, some of them.

We were pleased to be able to arrange flowers at Easter sponsored by several people in memory of a late member of their family.



At Christmas we were inundated with requests to sponsor an arrangement and were so sorry to have to refuse some. We did do 17 arrangements! However there will be an opportunity at Easter for those we had to turn down plus anyone else who wishes to sponsor one of the displays.

We enjoyed doing the Harvest Celebration especially since we were able to use lots of colourful flowers. I hope Pauline's lovely little knitted creatures were discovered among the foliage!

In August we were very busy with the Flower Festival "For All the Saints" at All Saint's church which Yatton House asked us to do. The members of Flower Guild and Yatton House, plus friends, helped to make this a successful event- raising nearly £2,000. I would like to thank Geoff Jacques for the wonderful service he planned incorporating little anecdotes about the various saints we portrayed. It was very enjoyable.



The Memory Tree was well supported. A hundred people hung cards on it and £70 was raised for Herriot Home Care.

Thank you to all who sponsored our work or gave a donation to help our funds. We do appreciate your help.

My heartfelt thanks go to the staunch members of the Flower Guild who work tirelessly to make the church look beautiful. We look forward to 2012 and its challenges!

**Dulcie Jones**

Chairman Christ Church Flower Guild

## Great Ayton Mothers' Union Report

2011 has been quite a busy year for Mothers' Union and in January we held our social afternoon together with the ladies of other Churches in our village. We were entertained by the Wilton Male Voice Choir and the Committee and members provided a lovely tea. Unfortunately our Branch Leader, Mrs Laura Lamb, was poorly in hospital.



Our AGM was held in February and Mrs Laura Lamb was still poorly so the Branch Report was read by Kath Stewart and she said it had been a busy year with some good speakers. In March Mrs Nona Jenkins gave her talk on the American Quilters and she showed some exquisite quilts to members and visitors. A collection was also taken for the "Make a Mother's Day Project" and £82 was sent to Mary Sumner House. In May we enjoyed a talk on the "Work of a Coroner" by Mr A G Eastwood. Our members attended the Stokesley Deanery Festival in Stokesley Parish Church. We also had Rev Paul Harford at our meeting in July when he spoke about his journey through his life up to the present time.

August was a very special month and over 150 people gathered in Christ Church to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our Mothers' Union Branch. The former Archdeacon of Cleveland, the Venerable Chris Hawthorn, gave a very challenging address, Our Branch Leader, Laura Lamb, was too poorly to attend, so a presentation was made of flowers, a cheque and a special framed certificate of her 60 years' membership, to Laura's daughter who made a lovely anniversary cake which she cut on behalf of her mother. The collection of £305 went to the MU Fund for Overseas projects. Sadly, Laura Lamb passed away in October. She is greatly missed and it will be very difficult to replace such a loyal, hard working and faithful member. 2011 also saw the funerals of other faithful members, including Pat Briggs, Dot King and Bunty Lester, who will all be greatly missed.



Two interesting speakers came to our meetings in October and November. Mrs Elizabeth Rowland from "Coastwatch" at Redcar and Mrs Nona Jenkins with her "Christmas Embroidery". A Deanery Advent Service was held at Kirklevington in December and our MU Carol Service at Great Ayton in December with ladies of the other Churches in the village. The Mission to Seafarers and the Women's Refuge greatly appreciated the many gifts, toiletries, scarves, hats, gloves, sweets, baby blankets and clothes etc. taken to them. Thank you for all the donations.

**Kath Stewart - Secretary**

## The Older Firm

The Senior Firm saw no fewer than 7 of its regular members leave for University this year. We held a well attended Formal Dinner to 'see them off' where Oli Simmons talked to them about the importance of getting involved in local churches and the Christian Union whilst they were away. Inevitably with such a departure the average age and numbers in the group have fallen this year but we still get around 10 teenagers to our fortnightly club nights.

Club Nights give the chance for a range of games and activities as well as the opportunity to discuss and think through what it means to be a Christian in everyday life. Through the year we hold a range of special activities to which we invite the Methodist youth groups in Great Ayton and Stokesley. It has been very exciting to have over fifty people at our firework party, BBQ and Easter egg hunt. Coming together helps the young people realise that there are lots of other young people at School who love Jesus and this helps them support one another.

Christ Church is a major supporter of the YFC Christian youth worker project which places a full time youth worker in Stokesley School. One exciting development through this is the start of a monthly Cafe Church (on a Tuesday) for young people in the new Stokesley Costa cafe.

When our young people go off to University we keep in touch with them – not least through the 'Student Box' scheme where we send cakes baked by the congregation; supplies of chocolate and information on lively local churches to all our students. This year we sent a record number of seventeen boxes.

I am very grateful to Nicky Pepper who has joined Neil and me in running the group. A big thank you to Julie Bourke who provided regular support over the past year.

**Nick Land**

## The Younger Firm



It's been another busy year for the younger Firm. Our numbers have been growing steadily throughout the year. In 2011 we saw six of our regular members confirmed by Archbishop Sentamu. It was a wonderful occasion for many reasons, but particularly the opportunity it gave our young people to support each other at this special time.

We meet on the second and fourth Sundays in the month. Our club nights include fun and games and the very popular tuck shop, but on a more serious note we plan a section of the evening to discuss issues that are relevant and important to young Christians today.

In addition to club nights, we have participated in treasure hunts, BBQs, Bonfire parties, visited Guisborough Walkway and been part of a strong crowd of 2000 at Lightwater Valley, where we listened to a Christian Band and listened to inspirational speakers. Our most unusual event this year was putting on a Christmas Concert at Hollygarth House in March.



Many of our young people participate regularly in Church services, whether it is bell ringing, serving, reading or helping out in Sunday School.

**Claire Sheridan**



## **SERVERS' REPORT**

This year's most notable event was the wonderful confirmation service led by our Archbishop John Sentamu. I think there were a record number of candidates and several of them expressed an interest in becoming a server. To date, we have welcomed Ellie Northey and Gina Brennan into our ranks following their confirmation. Hannah Peverell also joined us this year. I would like to thank them for their commitment in taking on this role, not forgetting their parents who also are committed to supporting them by way of giving lifts and providing wake up calls!

John Hendry made a guest appearance at the crib service and was commended for his efficient leading of the procession around church. He enjoyed it so much he is coming back on to the regular rota in the new year !

On a sad note, our faithful companion Robert Lappin died this year after many years of service to Christ Church.

Claudia Kirby and David Land went off to university this year and we wish them every success in their studies and continued Christian Fellowship throughout their new adventure.

New servers are always welcome to join us, so if you are wondering how you can serve Christ Church, just come and have a chat.

**Lesley Miller**

## Little Fishes

We held our 41st Little Fishes service at the end of 2011 and 13th March 2012 will be our 50th! In addition to Margaret Lewis, Geoff and Angela Jaques, Lesley Miller has now joined the team as a Worship Leader.

Attendance remains very good and lively with 46 different pre-school children attending since September 2011, averaging 17 each week plus carers and parents. The formula remains the same as when we started – with the addition of a new song “Build your life on the Lord” which has gone down well and the congregation now participate in reading the three prayers.



Many thanks are due to the support of church members, many of whom are actively involved in some way; whether as storytellers (including one of our mums who volunteered after her son moved on to nursery), worship leaders or providing refreshments and setting out playtime.

It was very encouraging to see several Little Fishes with their families at the Love in a box, Christingle and Crib services as well as some parents who attended and participated in our Carol services.

We anticipate Little Fishes worship and play group to go from strength to strength in 2012.

**Angela Jaques**



[www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk](http://www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk)

Since November 2010 our church website has been hosted by *Church Edit* (who host sites for numerous churches and similar organisations). The transition to the new web-hosting service proved to be ‘seamless’, the result being that we now have a website which has a more up-to-date image, is centrally based and not domiciled on my own computer. As well as myself, the site can also be updated by the Vicar who thoroughly enjoys it and has a new lease of life. Much of the information formerly needed to be passed to myself to be updated on the website but, as he now has direct access, Paul can now add information as soon as it becomes available to him. Examples of this are the Annual Church Report and our Parish Magazine, *Spire*, which can become ‘live’ instantaneously. There are several ‘new’ features to the site such as calendars, audio files, etc. If you haven’t had chance to have a browse yet then go to [www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk](http://www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk).

**Peter Titchmarsh** Webmaster

## Christ Church Bell Ringers

Our Tower Team has had losses and additions this year. We now have thirteen young people ringing our bells on a regular basis. We were sad to lose five old ringers, but wish them well for the future.

**Claudia Kirby** rang for 5 and a half years, and is now at Durham University studying Primary Teaching: **Michael Brennan** rang for 6 and a half years, and is now continuing his studies, aiming to take up University offers for next September: **David Land** rang for 7 years, and is now at Cambridge University reading Natural Sciences: **Fergus Roddy** rang for 7 years, and is now at Northumbria University reading Product Design: **Jessica Slater** rang for 8 months, and left us to pursue her other interests.

We were delighted to welcome on board four new ringers who rapidly learnt the ropes. On behalf of the whole congregation I should like to express our appreciation for all our ringers' efforts, as they don't always want to get up early on a Sunday morning! Our current ringers are:-

Edward Land	Hannah Peverell	Ella Jones	Luke Banfield
William Jackson	Emily Sheridan	John Hendry	Libby Hendry
Elinor Northey	Matthew Sheridan	Tom Jackson	Harry Banfield
Oliver Northey			

Since our last report the bells have rung for sixty eight regular Sunday services and festivals.

They were only booked for five weddings, but we already know more are booked for next year. They are a source of pocket money for our more senior ringers, strong enough to keep going for the extra time required, and contributing towards the cost of our two yearly service contract to keep the bells in good working order.

Our bells are serviced every two years by Smith of Derby Ltd and the next service is next due August 2013. The Church assisted us with the purchase of six new, custom made Sallys from Bell Ropes Ltd of Loughborough. The manufacture of these is a fascinating and dying craft. Should you be interested, there is a short video on their website showing how they are made. All eight bells are now rung using Sallys, which are much kinder on our ringers hands, saving a few blisters from the longer festival and wedding rings!

We have an octave of Tubular Bells, rather than real bells, but it does mean the ropes are very easy to learn.

Should you like any more information please contact **Elsa Taylor 722400.**

## Church Men's Group

Good fellowship was present again this year as we enjoyed food and drink at The Royal Oak and Casey's Brasserie in the village and on visits around the region!



Our summer outings were more limited with the cancellation of a couple of trips due to circumstances beyond our control. An excellent Sporting Social at the Riverside Cricket Ground for England v India was dampened, literally with a downpour causing the match to be abandoned! A brief shower didn't affect a fascinating day at Ampleforth Abbey. We continued

our journey around the cathedrals of the region with a visit to Durham in May .

Our discussions have been enhanced as men from the other churches of the village have joined us together with a visiting father from Coventry; we also welcomed Gideons from local churches to one of our meetings . Two particularly interesting evenings involved members sharing examples of things that have 'moved us' or been 'meaningful to us in our devotional life' or given us a 'significant emotional experience'; examples included poems, places, pieces of music and prose.



We are looking forward to another varied year ahead. If you want to meet for fellowship, food and faith, then do come and join us.

**Geoff Jaques**

## Christ Church Parochial Hall



Following another bright & successful year, we now have a happy cleaning duo maintaining our venue to a high standard of hygiene.

We met the “Wizard of Oz” & “Jack & the Beanstalk” and were again placing our x in the local elections for a bumper number of hopeful candidates for the Parish Council. In May we hosted a choral event, run by Royal School Church Music for local voices; so successful was this, that it will be repeated this year. It was a joy to listen to their harmonising.

I am fortunate with my “helpers”, who “drop everything” to come and assist me with the day-to-day running of the Hall and without which I would not be able to manage. The contributions from Sunday Coffee Ladies and 200 Club subscribers is also essential and most welcome.

The plan is to continue to update and improve our Hall, so that it remains the venue of choice in this village for many years to come.

**Jennifer Roberts**  
Hall Secretary

## Parochial Hall 200 Club

The Parochial Hall 200 Club was established in 1997 to assist with the maintenance, upkeep and improvement of our Parochial Hall to ensure it remains a suitable and welcoming venue. During the year ended 31 October 2011, the scheme has raised £1044 for hall funds and 31 people were lucky enough to win a cash prize of between £15.00 and £50.00.

The Parochial Hall hosts many events and activities throughout the year including Sunday School, Brownies and Guides, dancing, badminton, dramatic society and many others as well as private parties and dances etc. It is therefore vital that we maintain this venue to a suitable standard to ensure that we can continue to facilitate these events and the funds raised through the 200 Club go a long way to supporting this.

We are always looking for new members to support the scheme - membership is £24.00 per year and can be paid by direct debit quarterly, half yearly or annually or annually by cheque. We would like to take this opportunity to say a very big THANK YOU! to all who subscribe and support the Parochial Hall 200 Club. If you would like to join or would like to know more simply call Julie on 07527075536 or 01642 723687.

**Julie Leng Jane Johnson**

## CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



We have had a splendid fundraising year, boosted by one of our young supporters who organised a Summer Ball, which raised £1300.

We held 2 coffee mornings, a soup lunch, Cake Bake, Quiz and a Bridge Night for our annual events, each of which was well supported. In addition, we held a flower demonstration chaired by Jean McClure which raised £664.

At the Christmas card coffee morning held in the Methodist Hall, we had eight tables selling merchandise for different charities, including Children's Society. Two days before Christmas, on a very wet morning, we sang carols in the High Street, accompanied by John Appleyard and his guitar.



Pauline's recycled cards have again been matched £1 for £1 by the Barclays staff matched funding scheme. Our thanks go to Pauline and Peter Titchmarsh for this continued support.



Our thanks go also to those who have made donations during the past year: Christ Church PPC, St Oswald's PPC, a christening and a funeral. The Sunday School made decorated Christingle biscuits on Advent Sunday and sold them in the coffee lounge, generating £20.70.

We welcomed Vicki Nath onto the committee and all members are thanked for their continued hard work during the past year, in which a fantastic £10,459.07 was raised. Without the support of so many people at our events, this total would not have been achieved. Thank you all so much.

**Marina Charlton** Chairman.

# Marwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School

The last year has been another busy, successful year for Marwood School. Marwood continues to achieve high standards for all its children and is always popular with parents. The local authority representative has said that the outcomes for all children are outstanding and that other schools could learn from the work done here.

Nothing stands still in education and this is true of 2011 at Marwood. There are always new projects on the go, including the new work area and the refurbishing of the toilets. Many will remember that it does not seem very long ago that the toilets were outside!

There have been several important new links made recently from Marwood. The headteacher, Mrs Wilson, has been appointed as the joint head of Marwood and Kirkby and Great Broughton C of E Primary School. She spends half the week at each school. This has enabled the schools, staff and governing bodies to work closer together to enhance the education of the children. In addition we have welcomed another teacher, Mrs Grossett, to join our excellent staff. She works with Mrs Walton in Year 2, Mrs Winterschladen in Year 1 and Mrs Grady in Reception, along with the skilled teaching assistants.

Nowadays children are expected to start learning a foreign language at an early age. At Marwood French is taught from Year 1. Links are being fostered with a French school, sharing work and discovering what other children can do. North Yorkshire is also promoting international links between schools, focusing on Sri Lanka. Some of their teachers visited last summer and stayed



locally. Two Marwood teachers are soon paying a return visit over there, which will aid close ties between the different places. So Marwood is developing local, European and international links to help the education of the children.

Marwood is acknowledged to be a delightful school. As a parish we should be proud our children can start their education in such a happy, vibrant Christian community.

**Ann Whittaker**  
Foundation Governor

**Celia Wilson**  
Headteacher

## Guiding in Great Ayton

Guiding in Great Ayton continues to flourish with another busy year in 2011 although not as busy as 2010. Anita Huntsman completed her term as District Commissioner after six years in the role. We are all thankful for her hard work and dedication during this time.



All units have been busy following the programme appropriate to their section both in their meeting places and elsewhere. There have been visits to Guisborough Forest and Holme House in the Esk Valley. 1st Guides had a joint venture with Swainby Guides to Our Chalet in Switzerland & Disneyland Paris at Easter (more in the Guide report). The Senior Section and 1st Guide units also slept overnight at Flamingoland as part of a County-wide event.



We have had a number of Young Leaders qualify as Assistant Leaders and other adult leaders complete their training as Unit Guiders.

There are 2 Rainbow, 3 Brownie and 2 Guide Units in the village along with the Division Senior Section Unit (for those aged 14-25). Most of the units are full but there are some spaces available.

**We are looking for leaders to help at Guides on a Monday night and Rainbows on a Tuesday night so please get in touch if you are interested.** The social side of Guiding for the adults involved is also important, with District and Division social events throughout the year. The Trefoil Guild

is active in Great Ayton with regular meetings and outings.

**Alison Lambert**  
Leven Division Commissioner

## 2nd Great Ayton Rainbows

Well after all the centenary celebrations of 2010, Rainbows settled back in to traditional guiding activities.

We have a full unit of 16 girls all eager to come every Friday! - never a dull (or quiet) moment. We celebrated the Chinese New year of the Rabbit with traditional Chinese food, and made crafts for Valentines Day & Mothers Day.



On 9 April, we enrolled four Rainbows at the top of a windy Captain Cooks monument then a couple of weeks later returned to Gribdale with boiled eggs. We had decorated eggs for Easter to roll them down the hill. It was a lovely sunny evening shared with the Brownies. Amazing how many times some of the eggs were rolled down the hill!

During the summer term, we had a 'Global Adventure' working our way round the world exploring different countries cultures and food of course. We made passports and managed to visit Australia, Canada, Scotland & USA. All the girls got a badge for their efforts.

We also had a fascinating trip to Prior Pursglove Animal Care Centre where the girls had the opportunity to hold various animals and reptiles and see how they are cared for.

Returning in September we had a crafty autumn theme. We had a visit to the Guisborough Walkway Centre at the end of September on a very hot sunny evening so the girls all had a great time at the outdoor play area.



November was taken up with lots of Christmas craft activities and we ended the term with a visit to see Snow White at Middlesbrough Theatre and a joint Disco.

**Christine Kenyon**  
Rainbow Leader

## 1st Great Ayton Brownies

Following on from our very busy Centenary year in 2010 we were looking forward to getting back to some normal 'Brownie' activity!

We started the year making bird feeders and jewellery and cooking followed by some pancake activities and our traditional egg-rolling night at Gribdale.



We have played rounders on Low Green and floated our junk boats in the river – we built what we thought was a temporary dam under the white bridge (outside the Conservative Club) which has so far lasted 8 months and some serious rainfall. The ducks have even started using it as a resting spot!

During the summer term we ventured out as much as possible with an evening den building in the woods, building sand castles on a bracing Redcar beach and catching the train to Kildale and walking back to the village.

The girls have started their road safety and friend to animals badges.

In December we went on Pack Holiday to Esk Valley with a craft packed programme to get us in the mood for Christmas.

We ended the term with a trip to Middlesbrough Theatre to the pantomime and a joint party with the Rainbows.

Once again this is only possible due to the commitment and hard work of all the leaders, including a fantastic group of 'young leaders' although we all consider ourselves 'young'.



One of these girls has completed her Adult Leadership Qualification just in time to go off to University – well done Natalie Hosie. Natalie has also just completed a Guiding trip to India and we are all looking forward to hearing about it soon.

**Alison Selby**  
Brownie Leader

## 1st Great Ayton Guides

We currently have 32 girls and a waiting list. We have got 10 girls who are working on the Baden Powell Challenge and they have enjoyed planning some meetings and taking a leading role. We helped make cards for an African School project that were sold and enjoyed an interesting talk on the charity and how they fund children's schooling. We have enjoyed a sausage sizzle at Captain Cooks, walks from Captain Cooks to Roseberry Topping and Guisborough Walkway.



At Easter we spent 10 days in Adelboden, Switzerland where we visited Our Chalet, which is one of the four world centres. We visited Interlaken, went tobogganing and visited the wood carver to name but a few activities. We finished the trip with two fun filled days in Euro Disney, a fantastic time was had by all!

In the summer we enjoyed a trip to Flamingo Land and overnight camp. We have gained our Healthy Lifestyle and Science badge which involved us going to The Planetarium at Wynard where we learnt all about the night sky. We finished the year off with a trip to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the theatre.

**Veronica Hare**  
Guider

# 1st Great Ayton Scout Group

Membership of the Scout Group continues to be very healthy with over 100 young people attending the various sections each week. The Scout Hut is in use every weekday night with some nights seeing more than one unit meeting.

## The Beaver Colony

On a Friday evening, 24 boys aged from 6 to 8 let off steam at Beavers after the week at school. Our varied programme based on the 6 Beaver challenge badges aims to promote enjoyment and confidence in our great outdoors, consideration for each other and taking an interest in the world around us, near and far.

We held our annual Beaver sleepover camp last June at Watson Scout Centre in Carlton. After arriving and finding bunks we all flew in our rocket ship up to a strange, unexplored planet beyond Lord Stones. We set about exploring the alien landscape and found unfamiliar geology, alien creatures and even sustenance in the form of morsels of jelly like substance sealed into coloured pouches scattered in a greeny glade. The atmosphere of the planet was rather damp but we braved it to explore far and wide. Before returning to the rocket ship we completed an orienteering challenge to solve a puzzle. We flew back to Watson Centre quite damp but soon warmed up with sausages, chips and beans followed by a camp fire. After a little sleep all round we got up and all got wet again – voluntarily, in a mega water battle.



On our regular Friday meetings, we have enjoyed walks on light and dark evenings, pond dipping, paddling, digging and collecting fossils on the beach, finding out about Beavers and life in Canada, science experiments, creating bonfire pictures and Christmas cards and, last winter, sledging. We are still waiting for the snow this winter.

## Cub Packs

Our two cub packs, Endeavour and Monument have enjoyed a wide range of activities throughout the past year. Both took part in the Leven District Five – a – Side Football Competition at Thornaby, with Endeavour taking the runners up prize.

Both packs held successful summer camps and have enjoyed a wide range of activities both indoor and outdoor throughout the year.

Endeavour Pack enjoyed an unusual visit to the Hindu Temple in North Ormesby as part of their Community Challenge Award. As part of this award they need to find out about a place of worship different from their own and learn something of what happens there. It proved to be a very interesting visit.

## Scout Troops

As has become the tradition, several Scouts from both troops braved the gales to camp for the weekend in January at the annual County “Chilly” Camp in Nidderdale, to welcome in the new year.

**Tuesday Scout Troop** started off the year with a mystery walk around Ingleby Greenhow, no snow but plenty of ice. The Scouts listened intently to Rev Pev as he explained what Lent meant, and then cooked plenty of pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday, there were some strange toppings!! Tesco allowed us to raise £100 following an evening bag packing. Well done guys. Seeing behind the scenes at the Riverside stadium was very interesting, but being invested into the Troop in MFC’s board room, must be difficult to top. As the light nights came back it was time to turn the hands to canoeing. All the scouts can swim at least. A mountain biking in Guisborough

Woods will definitely be put on the programme for next year. Summer camp at Ravengill was fantastic, but having to orienteer to find the marshmallows to toast meant that navigation skills were put to the test. The archery proved very popular too. Ending the year saw Sam Garrett achieve the Troop’s very first Chief Scouts Gold Award. Well done Sam and first of many.



## Thursday Scout Troop

Two of our Scouts, Ethan Selby and Ben Smith were selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden and the troop assisted with fund raising for their trip, including bag packing at Sainsburys. A Swedish evening was held in the lead up to the Jamboree at which we enjoyed some unusual games including Snutt (ball snatch) and Dopp och Klot (not sure how to describe this game in English!)



Summer camp was held at High Yewdale, near Coniston in the Lake District during Whit Week. Tents were pitched in a strong gale and considerable effort was required over the next 24 hours to keep them on the ground! The weather improved for the rest of the week and we climbed Wetherlam and enjoyed a number of activities such as rock climbing, kayaking on Windermere and the ever popular ghyll scrambling.

This summer our scouts join others in the county to take part in the North Yorkshire Scouts Jubilee Challenge. Teams of Scouts will walk 60 miles in relays carrying a “North Yorkshire Diamond” – best North Yorkshire coal! – to be handed over at the county Scout HQ at Thirsk at the end of the walk which will end with an overnight camp.

Other activities have included a gliding day at Rufforth, bivouac building, chariot racing, beach cooking, young engineer challenge, bridge building at Sheepwash and orienteering, to mention a few.

3 Scouts gained their Chief Scout Gold Awards during the year – an excellent achievement.

## Explorer Unit

The Explorer Unit has enjoyed some novel activities over the year. Much fun was had one evening, when the Explorers were challenged to an IKEA type flat pack furniture assembling competition. In spite of their self-professed technical expertise, none of the teams actually managed to assemble the item correctly. Another unusual evening involved creating cars, as per the TV Skoda advert! Sam’s Bakery provided the basic rectangular sponge cakes which were then creatively cut, shaped, iced

and various other edible fittings attached. The results were quite remarkable.

We entered team in Operation Escape in October – a weekend event which sees teams of Explorers avoiding capture by leaders whilst carrying all their food and camping equipment with them. Our team was so confident that they used minimal map reading and ended up in the wrong dale! In spite of this setback, they did not come last.



Other evenings have included a successful musical jam session - complete with guitars, ukulele, drums, saxophone and trumpet - soap carving, orienteering and a number of cooking sessions, both indoors and out.

One Diamond and one Platinum Chief Scout Award were gained. Four of our Explorers are helping with other sections as part of their Young Leader training.

All units attended the Annual Leven District St Georges Day Parade in April at Hutton Rudby.

Our **Supporters Committee** continues to organise events for fund raising and to provide fun events for parents and friends as well as the young people. A highlight of the year was the return of the Scout Group Firework Display and Bonfire for the village. After a number of years absence, we were very pleased to take up the offer by the Fletchers to hold the event at Woodhouse Farm, Little Ayton. The event was attended by several hundred people! The Annual Duck Race was the usual success, although somewhat unusual with ducks racing upstream, due to the windy conditions and lack of water flow! Other events included a Quiz Night at the Royal Oak and a Family Ceilidh is planned for March.

The Scout Group would like thank Christ Church for their sponsorship of the Scout Group. We very much appreciate the use of the church grounds for our hut and for the use of the Parochial Church Hall and equipment on many occasions.

**Ian McWilliam**  
Group Scout Leader

# **The Parish of Great Ayton with Easby**

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

21st March 2012 at 7.30pm in the Parochial Hall

### **Meeting of Parishioners**

1. Election of Churchwardens

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting 23rd March 2011
3. Matters arising
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Presentation of Annual Report for 2011
6. Financial Report and Presentation of Audited Accounts for year end 31st December 2011.
7. The Vicar's Comments
8. Election of Parochial Church Council members
9. Appointment of Sidesmen and women
10. Appointment of Independent Examiners
11. Any Questions on Church matters for consideration by the PCC
12. Presentation of South African Link with our Archdeaconry